

1 first and second cutting blades having blade tips rotatably disposed within said mower
deck;

power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of
each of said cutting blades[;] whereby the blade tip path of each of said cutting
5 blades defines a circle;

a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from
the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front
wall;

said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location
adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location
10 adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end
of said discharge opening;

said first flow control baffle comprising a first arcuate baffle portion, having first and
second ends, which extends from the interior surface of said second side wall
partially around said first cutting blade, a first elongated and substantially straight
15 baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of
said first arcuate baffle portion, a second arcuate baffle portion, having first and
second ends, which extends from said second end of said first elongated and
substantially straight baffle portion partially around said second cutting blade;

said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion being angularly disposed
20 with respect to the said circle defined by the blade tip path of said second cutting
blade in a chord-like fashion so that the cuttings from said first cutting blade will
be deflected inwardly within the said circle defined by the blade tip path of said
second cutting blade;

9 1 a second flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly
from the interior surface of said top wall rearwardly of said cutting blades; and
said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each
of said baffle portions being positioned adjacent the blade tip path of one of said
cutting blades;

5 said first and second flow control baffles defining a plurality of open throat portions
which are positioned between adjacent cutting blades.

(C 10) (ONCE AMENDED)

A multiblade lawn mower, comprising:

10 a mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and first and second side
walls defining a downwardly directed opening;

each of said front wall, said back wall, and said opposite side walls having interior and
exterior surfaces;

15 said first side wall having a discharge opening formed therein;

said discharge opening having rearward and forward ends;

means operatively connected to said mower deck for moving said mower deck along
the ground;

first, second and third cutting blades having blade tips rotatably disposed within said
mower deck;

20 power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of
each of said cutting blades[;] whereby the blade tip path of each of said cutting
blades defines a circle;

25 a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from
the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front
wall;

1 said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location
adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location
adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end
of said discharge opening;

5 said first flow control baffle comprising a first arcuate baffle portion, having first and
second ends, which extends from the interior surface of said second side wall
partially around said first cutting blade, a first elongated and substantially straight
baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of
said first arcuate baffle portion, a second arcuate baffle portion, having first and
10 second ends, which extends from said second end of said first elongated and
substantially straight baffle portion partially around said second cutting blade, a
second elongated and substantially straight baffle portion, having first and
second ends, extending from said second end of said second arcuate baffle
portion, and a third baffle portion extending from said second end of said second
15 elongated and substantially straight baffle portion adjacent said third cutting
blade towards said discharge opening;

said first elongated and substantially straight baffle portion being angularly disposed
with respect to the said circle defined by the blade tip path of said second cutting
blade in a chord-like fashion so that the cuttings from said first cutting blade will
be deflected inwardly within the said circle defined by the blade tip path of said
20 second cutting blade, said second elongated and substantially straight baffle
portion being disposed with respect to the said circle defined by the blade tip
path of said third cutting blade in a chord-like fashion so that the cuttings from
said second cutting blade will be deflected inwardly within the said circle defined
25 by the blade tip path of said third cutting blade;